

I. IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~[[an]]~~ ordering and payment allocation ~~system~~ for a seller **and a plurality of buying entities, the seller having a plurality of subsidiaries, and the plurality of buying entities each having a plurality of buyers**, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at ~~the an~~ ordering and payment allocation system **and for each of the plurality of buying entities, a plurality of two or more** orders **comprising from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, wherein the two or more orders includes** at least one order from **each more than one** of the plurality of buyers **associated with the buying entity**, the **plurality of** orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the ordering and payment allocation system **and for each of the plurality of buying entities**, the **plurality of** orders **for the buying entity** into a ~~plurality of~~ consolidated **invoice invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices** comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with ~~one of the plurality of~~ **buying entities entity**;

making each of the consolidated invoices available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system **and for each buying entity, each of the an approved** consolidated **invoice invoices from the corresponding for that** buying entity, ~~wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes including~~ an indication ~~from the corresponding buying entity~~ as to which of the orders a payment is being approved and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the ordering and payment allocation system and for each buying entity, an aggregated payment ~~from the each of plurality of buying entities~~;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the orders are received electronically.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 further comprising the act of evaluating a received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's organization and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the received order.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

8. (Original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of an availability of the consolidated invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and

transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 12, further comprising the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records having:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising the act of processing the received payment.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;

matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller;

providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:

receiving the matched data;

applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and

updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

20. (Original) The method according to Claim 19, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein the allocation act is comprised of the acts of:

receiving the authorized payment;

disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;

processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;

generating at least one funding report;

delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and

transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 22, wherein the funding report comprises:

a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;

a payment date;
results of exception and dispute processing;
sub-invoice details; and
reason codes.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the allocation act includes the acts of:

receiving the payment;
determining an incremental funding amount;
funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

25-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer executable programmatic code for an order management system for a seller **and a plurality of buying entities, the seller having a plurality of subsidiaries, and the plurality of buying entities each having a plurality of buyers**, which, when executed, performs the acts of:

receiving, at the order management system **and for each of the plurality of buying entities, a plurality of two or more orders comprising from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, wherein the two or more orders includes** at least one order from **each more than one** of the plurality of buyers **associated with the buying entity**, the **plurality of** orders corresponding to more than one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, the order management system and for each of the plurality of buying entities, the plurality of orders for the buying entity into a plurality of consolidated invoice invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with ~~one~~ of the plurality of buying entities entity;

making each of the consolidated invoices available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the order management system and for each buying entity, ~~each of the an approved~~ consolidated invoice invoices from the corresponding for that buying entity, ~~wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes~~ including an indication ~~from the corresponding buying entity~~ as to which of the orders a payment is being approved and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the order management system and for each buying entity, an aggregated payment ~~from the each of plurality of buying entities~~;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of each of the aggregated payments to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries, approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

68. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the orders are received electronically.

69. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the orders are received via the Internet.

70. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 68, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of evaluating the received order against at least one of a spending limit corresponding to the buyer's and an available credit limit corresponding to the buyer's organization to determine whether to book the order.

71. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 70, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the acts of:

booking those received orders which have been evaluated as not exceeding the evaluated spending limits; and

creating a receivable entry in a seller account receivable system.

72. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 71, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of executing one or more off-balance sheet processes.

73. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidation act is comprised of the acts of sorting and compiling the booked orders to create a single invoice.

74. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 73, wherein the compiling act includes formatting booked orders received from different buying organizations into a common format.

75. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the consolidated invoice includes sub-invoice data, sub-invoice data being data which corresponds to booked orders placed by a respective buyer.

76. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 75, wherein the sub-invoice data is transmitted to the respective buyer.

77. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the act of making the consolidated invoice available includes at least one of:

sending an electronic message to the buyer to notify the buyer of the availability of the consolidated invoice;

distributing a paper statement to the buyer; and
transmitting the consolidated invoice to the buyer.

78. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of displaying the consolidated invoice on a buyer terminal, wherein the buyer indicates approval of sub-invoice items corresponding to the consolidated invoice using the buyer terminal.

79. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the buyer's approval indication includes the act of entering a code corresponding to a reason payment is being approved or denied for a sub-invoice item.

80. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of using the buyer terminal to authorize payment to the seller.

81. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 78, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of receiving a payment from the buyer.

82. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the payment is received via one of an automated clearing house, a wire transfer, a lock box, a foreign exchange trade, electronic cash, netting via the Internet, an electronic wallet and a check.

83. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of updating a payment master database, the payment master database comprising records which include:

- a payment date;
- a payment method;
- a payment reference;
- a payment amount;
- a from currency;
- a to currency;
- f/x, tax and fee data;
- a distribution status; and
- an amount distributed.

84. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs the act of processing the received payment.

85. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the act of processing the received payment is comprised of at least one of the acts of:

- performing a consolidated receivables process to gather payment data into consolidated receivables data for a single report;

- matching the consolidated receivables data to an outstanding sub-invoice file, and providing the matched data to the seller; and

- providing complete accounts receivable processing, the act of providing complete accounts receivable processing comprising the acts of:

- receiving the matched data;

- applying the merged and consolidated receivables data to create accounts receivable and general ledger update data; and

- updating a general ledger corresponding to the seller.

86. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 84, wherein the payment data gathered into the single report during the consolidated receivables process is received from a plurality of service providers.

87. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 81, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act comprising the acts of:

- receiving the authorized payment;
- disaggregating the received payment to associate portions of the received payment with one or more selling sub-entities;
- processing the received payment to update an accounts receivable system;
- generating at least one funding report;
- delivering the at least one funding report to the respective sub-entities; and
- transferring the disaggregated funds to financial accounts for the corresponding sub-entities.

88. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 87, wherein the funding report generation act is comprised of the act of updating a payment master database to reflect a distribution status and amount distributed to the corresponding subsidiary.

89. (Original) The storage medium according to Claim 88, wherein the funding report comprises at least one of:

- a list of sub-invoice items included in the distribution;
- a payment date;
- results of exception and dispute processing;
- sub-invoice details; and
- reason codes.

90. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 67, wherein the code, when executed, further performs an allocation act that includes the acts of:

receiving a payment;

determining an incremental funding amount;

funding a subsidiary corresponding to a holding account via a foreign exchange if the incremental funding amount equals or exceeds a predetermined total when combined with a holding account amount; and

allocating the incremental funding amount to the holding account amount when the incremental funding amount is less than the predetermined total when combined with the holding account amount.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

92-93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) The storage medium of claim 67 wherein the programmatic code further performs the act of assigning a unique reference number to the consolidated invoice to enable tracking and invoice management.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining before the order is booked whether the at least one buyer is able to effect payment.

97. (Currently Amended) A method for a payment allocation system for a seller **and a plurality of buying entities, the seller having a plurality of subsidiaries, and the plurality of buying entities each having a plurality of buyers**, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at the payment allocation system and for each of the plurality of buying entities, a plurality of two or more orders or order data comprising from a plurality of buyers associated with a plurality of buying entities, wherein the two or more orders or order data include at least one order or order data from each more than one of the plurality of buyers associated with the buying entity, the seller, or at least one subsidiary of the seller;

consolidating, at the payment allocation system and for each of the plurality of buying entities, the plurality of orders or order data into a plurality of consolidated invoice invoices, each of the plurality of consolidated invoices comprising particulars on the orders of the plurality of buyers associated with ~~one~~ of the plurality of buying entities entity;

making each of the consolidated invoice available to the corresponding buying entity;

receiving, at the payment allocation system and for each buying entity, each of the an approved consolidated invoice invoices from the corresponding for that buying entity, ~~wherein each of the consolidated invoices includes~~ including an indication ~~from the corresponding buying entity~~ as to which of the orders a payment is being approved and which orders are being disputed or excepted;

receiving, at the payment allocation system and for each buying entity, an aggregated payment ~~from the each of plurality of buying entities~~;

disaggregating each of the aggregated payments by associating portions of the aggregated payment with an approved order and a corresponding subsidiary;

allocating the portions of the aggregated payment to the corresponding subsidiary for which the payment has been made;

gathering A/R data and information based on the payments to subsidiaries,
approved orders or the disputed or excepted orders; and

providing the A/R data and information to the seller.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the consolidated invoice is received before or contemporaneous with an aggregated payment on the approved orders.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aggregated payment comprises a payment to two or more subsidiaries of the seller.